

## Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 EUR-25 AID-20 EB-11 NEA-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 /183 W

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R 301238Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8229

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1211

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SU

SUBJ: SUDANESE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE RE NEW MILITARY HOSPITAL

1. WHILE IN FOREIGN MINISTRY MAY 29 ON OTHER BUSINESS, I WAS SUMMONED BY FONMIN MANSOUR KHALID WHO ON POINT LEAVING FOR QUICK TRIP TO PERSIAN GULF. KHALID SAID THAT, ON PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S INSTRUCTIONS, HE WISHED RAISE WITH ME OFFICIALLY POSSIBILITY USG SUPPORT FOR CONSTRUCTION NEW MILITARY HOSPITAL IN OMDURMAN. KHALID SAID HE UNDERSTOOD PRESIDENT HAD ALLUDED TO THIS PROJECT IN EARLIER TALK WITH ME. I RESPONDED THAT, TO BEST MY RECOLLECTION, THIS WAS FIRST INSTANCE IN WHICH PROJECT HAD BEEN MENTIONED. IN RESPONSE MY REQUEST FOR DETAILS, KHALID SAID CONTEMPLATED FACILITY WOULD BE "MAIN REFERENCE HOSPITAL" FOR SUDANESE ARMED FORCES. WHILE AUTHORITIES HAD SOME IDEAS RE PLANNING AND SCOPE FACILITY, HE DID NOT BELIEVE DETAILED PLANS HAD BEEN PREPARED.

2. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I TOLD KHALID THAT I WAS VERY DOUBTFUL USG COULD TAKE ON SCHEME WHICH WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO BE VERY SUBSTANTIAL. OUR MILITARY WERE NOT IN BUSINESS OF BUILDING FOREIGN HOSPITALS, AND EVEN IF FEASIBLE ON OTHER GROUNDS AVAILABLE AID FUNDS FOR SUDAN FULLY COMMITTED. KHALID THEN ASKED WHETHER USG COULD PROVIDE SOME ANCILLARY ASSISTANCE, SUCH AS HELP IN PREPARING PLANS AND INVENTORYING NEEDS PROPOSED NEW HOSPITAL. I RESPONDED I WOULD BE GLAD QUERY DEPARTMENT.

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AT SAME TIME, AND WITHOUT IMPLYING ANY ACTION ON PART USG, I

WONDERED WHETHER GOS INTEREST MIGHT ENCOMPASS SOME SLIGHTLY USED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR SUCH A NEW FACILITY WHICH US MILITARY MEDICAL AUTHORITIES MIGHT FIND IN SURPLUS. KHALID REPLIED THAT ANY HELP WOULD BE WELCOME.

3. COMMENT. THIS REQUEST IS REAL CURVE BALL. MANNER PRESENTATION AND ABSENCE DETAILS SUGGEST THAT MATTER DISCUSSED BY NIMEIRI IN SOME MARATHON SESSION WITH SENIOR ADVISORS, IN LAST DAY OR TWO, WITH KHALID INSTRUCTED TO RAISE WITH ME. HAVING JUST WITNESSED INAUGURATION LARGE SOVIET-AIDED HOSPITAL MAY 25 (KHARTOUM 1176) NIMEIRI MAY REGARD SIMILAR AMERICAN-BACKED FACILITY AS FURTHER EVIDENCE SUDANESE POLICY NONALIGNMENT. WHILE GOS CAN HARDLY EXPECT IMMEDIATE RESPONSE, WE HAVE IMPORTANT INTEREST (OUTCOME BSO TRIAL) IN NOT SHOWING OURSELVES ENTIRELY UNRESPONSIVE TO NIMEIRI'S PERSONAL REQUEST. ACCORDINGLY, I RECOMMEND: (A) DEPARTMENT AND DOD CONSIDER SENDING TEAM ONE OR TWO EXPERTS FROM US ARMY MEDICAL CORPS WHO COULD, TOTALLY WITHOUT COMMITMENT ON CONSTRUCTION, ADVISE SUDANESE MILITARY ON WANNING AND EQUIPMENT FOR FACILITY, AND/OR (B) SOME INDICATION SURPLUS MILITARY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT WHICH MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO GOS AT LITTLE COST TO HELP EQUIP PROPOSED FACILITY.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. WHILE IT PPRECIATE COMPLEX RAMIFICATIONS FOREGOING, WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR SOME PRELIMINARY REACTION SHORTLY, AS FONMIN RETURNING KHARTOUM END OF NEXT WEEK AND INDICATED HE WOULD WISH TO ZEE ME AGAIN THEN. EXPECT HE WILL THEN BE OFF ON ANOTHER OF HIS WORLD TOURS.  
BREWER

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## Message Attributes

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